

Billinge-and-Winstanley Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health for 1937.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Sixth Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of your district.

Public Health Officers of the Authority:—

- (a) James S. Mather, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health.
- (b) James J. Perkins, A.R.S.I., Sanitary Inspector.

Both are part-time officers.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in Acres)	4,591
Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population, mid 1937 ...	5,632
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1937) according to Rate	
Books	1,473
Rateable Value	£20,521
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£80

No change is to be reported in the social conditions, industries and extent of unemployment in the district. The large collieries which flourished in pre-war days have, one by one, become extinct and given place to several small undertakings mining what little remains and employing but a poor fraction in comparison. The hey-day of the Coal Era seems definitely to have gone locally, and no doubt nationally and internationally as well. Meanwhile other industries have benefitted recently in a boom period, notably those associated with the building trades, and we find brick and terra cotta works thriving. The Cotton Industry still continues to employ a proportion of the women folk, though with indifferent prospects, and agriculture struggles along as usual. Nevertheless, unemployment persists, though hardly so acutely, and I observe an improvement in the standard of living generally.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

	Total.	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate ...	73	33	40
Illegitimate ...	2	1	1
	—	—	—
Total ...	75	34	41

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population of the district 13.3

Other live Birth Statistics, introduced for purposes of comparison with above:—

	Total.	M.	F.
Live Births in district during 1936 ...	85	41	44
Live Birth Rate for 1936	15.5	per 1,000	
Average Rate for the last 5 years (1932-36) ...	13.8	per 1,000	
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales during 1937 ...	14.9	per 1,000	

	Total.	M.	F.
Still Births	7	5	2
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			85
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births for England and Wales in 1937			39

	Total.	M.	F.
Deaths	63	31	32
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...			11.1
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			11.2

Other Statistics for comparison are:—

	Total.	M.	F.
Deaths in district during 1936 ...	61	36	25
Death Rate for district in 1936		11.2	per 1,000
Mean Death Rate for district during five years (1932-36)		11.4	per 1,000
Death Rate for England and Wales in 1937 ...		12.4	per 1,000

The Death Rates for the individual Wards, calculated on the census figures of population, are:

Billinge Chapel End	12.5	per 1,000
Billinge Higher End	10.9	per 1,000
Winstanley	17.7	per 1,000

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes	Nil	Nil
	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	66
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 live births	68
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

Other statistics for comparison:—

Number of deaths of infants per 1,000 live births in district in 1936	58
Mean number of infantile deaths in district per 1,000 live births for five years (1932-36)	62
Infant mortality per 1,000 live births for England and Wales in 1937	58

The distribution of the infantile deaths in the district was as follows:—

Billinge Chapel End	Billinge Higher End	Winstanley
2	2	1
Deaths from Measles (all ages)		Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		Nil

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

(a) Laboratory facilities:

- (i) Pathological specimens are submitted to Dr. W. E. Cooke (Royal A. E. Infirmary, Wigan).

Two specimens were submitted during the year, one a blood-widal examination, the other a throat swab for diphtheria. The findings were negative in both instances.

- (ii) Specimens of water, milk, etc., are submitted to the Liverpool City Laboratories for bacteriological examination and to the County Analyst for chemical examination. The reports on these are included in the appropriate sections to follow. In all, the following examinations were undertaken under this head:—

Bacteriological—6.

Chemical—1.

(b) Ambulance facilities.—These are satisfactorily arranged as follows:—

Accident Cases and Emergencies.—Wigan Police Ambulance.

Public Assistance Hospital Cases.—Wigan P.A. Ambulance.

Infectious Diseases.—Ashton-in-Makerfield U.D.C. Ambulance.

Ordinary Sickness Cases.—Ashton-in-Makerfield U.D.C. Special Ambulance.

- (c) Nursing in the home.—This is provided for by the local Nursing Association, a voluntary organisation affiliated to the County Nursing Association. That the system has established itself so quickly and thoroughly in the public favour is largely to the credit of the nurse, whose efficiency and patience are appreciated by patient and doctor alike. She has certainly justified her appointment.

- (d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.—There is one Maternity and Child Welfare Centre in our area. This is held at the Conservative Club, Main Street, on Wednesdays, from 10-0 a.m. to 12 noon, under the direction of Dr. Gawne. The School Clinic, situated at Orrell, answers for the older children. Both are provided and controlled by the County Council.

(e) Hospitals—Public and Voluntary :

- (i) Wigan Infirmary.
- (ii) Wigan Borough Public Assistance Hospital, Billinge.
- (iii) Ashton-in-Makerfield Fever Hospital (for cases of Scarletina, Diphtheria and Enteric Fever only).
- (iv) Smallpox Hospital provided by Local Authority for cases occurring in the district. Has not been used for many years and is quite out of date.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

I. (i) **Water.**—After an unusually dry winter we are facing the summer with depleted reserves and altered plans. It is with disappointment that the scheme for the reservoir, an ideal which was to the fore in the considerations last year, has had to be abandoned at least temporarily. Fluctuations in prices have almost doubled the costs originally anticipated and a financial burden would be incurred altogether beyond the district.

The level of the water in the Whittle Shaft fell steadily through the Summer and Autumn, and on November 27th reached its lowest level, 9-ft. 10-ins.—some 20-ft. below the lowest previously attained. Such a precarious position gave cause for anxiety until the weather broke.

Meanwhile the Council were alive to the possibility of deepening the shaft while the level of the water was so low. From the plans it is judged that there is a further 95-ft. to the bottom of the shaft which may become available by removing the loose material with which it appears to be filled. With this in mind a professional estimate was obtained of the approximate cost of the work, and this seemed quite reasonable and sound. But the biggest obstacle was to provide for a satisfactory water supply to the district whilst the work was being carried out, and because of this the commencement was delayed over the most favourable time in Autumn, and eventually postponed for twelve months. As a possible solution to the problem, a sample of water was taken from the Billinge Lane Colliery Shaft on March 2nd, 1938, and submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination. The results, and opinion herewith, need no amplification as indicating the unsuitability of this for a substitute supply.

Chemical Results:—

Expressed as parts per 100,000					
Total Solids in Solution	...	...	...	...	80.8
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 15 minutes	...	...	...	...	0.026
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 3 hours	...	...	...	...	0.049
Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.047
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.008
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	...	0.033
Nitrogen as Nitrites	...	...	...	...	0.0010
Combined Chlorine	...	...	...	...	2.3

Analyst's Report.—The chemical analysis indicates that this water is not fit for drinking and domestic use.

Bacteriological Results.

Description	BACTERIA per CC.		B COLI
	AT 37°C	AT 22°C	
Shaft. Billinge Lane Colliery ...	25	121	14 per 100 CCS

Cob Moor, the auxiliary supply, unreliable both as to quantity and quality in time past, gave another unsatisfactory sample on January 18th, 1938.

The bacteriological findings were as follows:—

Bacteriological Results.

Description	BACTERIA per CC		B COLI
	AT 37°C	AT 22°C	
Cobmoor	25	124	25 per 100 CCS

Investigations have been pursued and steps taken to trace and clear the contamination. Meanwhile the supply was temporarily suspended and provision made for Chlorination on its resumption. Unfortunately, we are not yet so securely placed as to be able to dispense with it entirely.

Received even more recently from Upholland U.D.C., who augment the resources of the district to an average extent of 20,000 gallons daily, are the following results of analyses of samples of that water taken on February 17th, 1938.

Expressed in parts per 100,000.

Mark or denomination of sample ...

“ B ” Surface Reservoir Tontine Water Works

Total Solids in Solution	...	...	...	...	30.8
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 15 mins.	...	...	...	...	0.007
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 3 hours	...	...	...	...	0.012
Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.000
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.002
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	...	0.025
Nitrogen as Nitrites	...	...	...	...	Nil
Combined Chlorine	...	...	...	...	2.0

Analyst's Report.—“ The chemical analysis indicates that this water is fit for drinking and domestic use.”

Mark or denomination of sample ...

“ A ” Rising Main at mouth of Roby Mill Well

Total Solids in Solution	...	...	...	...	39.6
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 15 mins.	...	...	...	...	0.005
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 3 hours	...	...	...	...	0.010
Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.0005
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.0025
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	...	0.074
Nitrogen as Nitrites	...	...	...	...	Nil
Combined Chlorine	...	...	...	...	2.0

Analyst's Report.—“ The chemical analysis indicates that this water is fit for drinking and domestic use.”

As can be seen, they are highly satisfactory and it is the more to be regretted that the quantity could not be equally guaranteed. It has an excellent modifying effect in its hardness on the abnormal softness of the greater body, some 85,000 gallons, obtained daily from the Whittle Shaft. The results, subjoined, of the samples of the latter taken on August 31st, 1937, resemble those of previous years, and in this connection it may be noted that the bacteriological results are always distinctly more convincing as to purity than the chemical.

Mark or denomination of sample ...

Whittle Shaft (Mather Pumping Station)

Total Solids in Solution	...	...	...	...	61.2
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 15 mins.	...	...	...	...	0.017
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 3 hours	...	...	...	...	0.029
Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.046
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.006
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	...	Nil
Nitrogen as Nitrites	...	...	...	...	Nil
Combined Chlorine	...	...	...	...	2.5
Temporary Hardness (Alkalinity)	...	...	...	...	48.2
Total Hardness (total calcium and magnesium salts by titration)	...	...	...	...	7.8
Sodium Carbonate	...	...	...	...	42.8
Free Chlorine	...	...	...	...	0.004

Analyst's Report.—"The above results indicate that this water in its present condition is not likely to be injurious to health. The comparatively large amount of free ammonia present is probably due to the reduction of nitrates, and therefore is of little significance. The water is very alkaline, the major portion of the alkalinity being due to the presence of sodium carbonate. The presence of free chlorine in the water after receipt would indicate that some excess might have been used on this occasion." Bacteriologically the water is beyond reproach, there being less than 10 bacteria per cc at 37° and 22° C both before and after chlorination, whilst B Coli was absent in 100 ccs.

To summarise the present position, and with regard to future plans, while it is clear that the water requirements of the district will materially increase year by year, a reservoir cannot at present be included as an integral part of our schemes. On the other hand, alternative supplies have proved failures and boring operations are both uncertain and costly. The Whittle Shaft alone is a safeguard, and it is good to know that its depth can be increased so much. It is planned, subject to Ministerial sanction, to carry out this deepening when the opportunity presents in the coming Autumn, and we have now the assurance that by a method suggested the public supply can be maintained from the shaft during the progress of the work.

(ii) **Drainage and Sewerage.**—The only improvement of note in this section has been the joining of the sewer in the part of Winstanley on the Wigan boundary with the neighbouring town sewer. This became quite urgent, as the conditions had become intolerable, the small sewage field being totally inadequate for the recent extensive building. There was no alternative, for no more land was available to the Council in their own district, and the area by its contour is isolated from the general sewerage scheme of the district. The conditions of agreement are reasonable and the arrangements are working smoothly. There need be no restriction of building on this account now.

2. **Rivers and Streams.**—There is little risk of gross pollution of the streams in the district from effluent. The very definite risk to the boundary stream from the overtaxed sewage field mentioned above has been removed in a radical way.

3. (i) **Closet Accommodation.**—There has been a decrease in the number of conversions to water closets, for they have not been encouraged to the same extent, since the dry weather and the state of the water reserves indicate the need for greater conservatism. The plan for the completion of the conversions in five years will have to be modified according to the exigencies of circumstances.

Closet Accommodation at end of 1937.

Privy Middens:—No. of Middens	...	...	...	222
No. of Closets attached to these Middens	...	...	...	369
No. of Pail Closets	...	...	...	4
No. of dry Ashpits (excluding Middens)	...	...	...	Nil
No. of Movable Ashbins	...	...	...	606
No. of houses on Water Carriage system	...	...	...	675
No. of Fresh Water Closets	...	...	...	686
No. of Waste Water Closets	...	...	...	Nil

Conversions:—

No. of Privy Closets to Fresh Water Closets	...	...	28
No. of Privy Closets to Fresh Water Closets during five years 1932-1936	...	...	53
No. of Pail Closets to Fresh Water Closets	...	...	Nil
No. of Pail Closets to Fresh Water Closets during five years 1932-1936	...	...	Nil
No. of Privy Closets to Pail Closets	...	...	Nil
No. of Privy Closets to Pail Closets during five years 1932-1936	...	...	Nil

(ii) **Public Cleansing.**—The purchase of a properly fitted covered cart by the Council for the removal of dry house refuse to the tips is an undoubted advance worthy of report in this section. Though eventually a motor vehicle may become necessary as the conversion scheme progresses, the present arrangements answer satisfactorily for present requirements and no complaints have been made.

A common destructor providing for several neighbouring districts is an ideal for future attainment in localities such as this—the system of tipping is fundamentally unhygienic.

(iii) **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**—Vide Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(iv) **Shops.**—No action has been taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences.

(v) **Smoke Abatement.**—There has been no necessity for action in the matter of smoke abatement. The factory chimneys are kept under observation by the Sanitary Inspector during his routine patrol of the district.

(vi) **Swimming Baths and Pools.**—There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the district.

(vii) **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**—No houses were found infested and so disinfection was not required. When it has previously been necessary this has been carried out by the Local Authority using formaldehyde gas. This, though not so effective as hydrocyanic acid gas, is much safer to use, and, as far as this district is concerned, has been sufficient. With regard to the belongings of those moving into Council Houses, much tact is required in dealing with the people. The Council are not disposed to favour over-forceful routine methods. The Sanitary Inspector, therefore, has kept an informal watch during the transfer to the new houses to prevent obviously infested articles being taken.

4. **Schools.**—The sanitary condition and water supply of the two public elementary schools in the district remain satisfactory. Though not in many respects up to modern standards, both have answered their purpose well in the past, and it is unfortunate that they cannot be adapted to present basic requirements, for they are at least well situated for the population they serve. The schools were closed from January 20th to February 1st during the height of the Influenza Epidemic, as attendance had generally fallen below 40 per cent. On the resumption this was greatly improved and soon returned to normal proportions.

SECTION D.

Housing.—The standard of housing is greatly improved both from an overcrowding and slum standpoint. The worst types have now been demolished, many in gross disrepair brought to a reasonable state and the overcrowding reduced to relatively insignificant proportions. Some still remain to be dealt with, however, and to this end 32 houses were planned for the present year in Billinge Chapel End, where inferior conditions both as to site, structure and age are to be found. This number has since been reduced to 8 for Slum Clearance purposes only, further building for overcrowding being left till next year on account of the promised subsidy.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during Year:—

(I) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under					
Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	125
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	135

(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	60
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	120
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	22
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	40
2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices:—	
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	85
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—	
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	45
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	45
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.—Overcrowding:—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ...	33
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	39
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	241
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ...	1
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ...	43
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	271
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ...	

Much of the overcrowding was in slum property. This has now been largely dealt with.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) **Milk Supply.**—There are 35 Cowkeepers (including dairy farms) and 11 Milk Purveyors (other than Cowkeepers) on the register, and 210 inspections have been made during the year. The premises generally are satisfactory, but in some instances an improvement in the methods could be made. Four samples of milk were submitted for biological examination on behalf of the Local Authority during the year. All were satisfactory as to cleanliness and free from tuberculous infection. In addition samples were taken as requested for the County Council from the supplies to the local schools. One licence only, under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, has been issued, this being in respect of the retail distribution of pasteurised milk. There are no production or bottling plants within the area.

(b) **Meat and Other Foods.**—There are no slaughter-houses within the district.

All places in which food is prepared or stored have been inspected, but no sanitary defects have been found, nor has any infectious disease been reported in connection with them.

The following table is compiled from information submitted by the Sanitary Inspector, whose duty it is to inspect the carcasses of animals killed in the district for human food.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed					70
Number Inspected					60
All Diseases except Tuberculosis:					
Whole Carcasses condemned					Nil.
Carcasses of which some part of the organ was condemned					Nil.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Tuberculosis Only:					
Whole Carcasses condemned					Nil.
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned..					Nil.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis					Nil.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control Over, Infectious and Other Diseases.

During the early months of the year, Influenza in extensive epidemic form produced several cases of the more severe Influenza Pneumonia. This apart, Infectious Disease has been entirely sporadic in its occurrence and varied, as the table illustrates. Scarlet Fever was most constant, however, though always mild and uncomplicated. Diphtheria, only notified on one occasion, was conspicuously absent having regard to its unusual prevalence in neighbouring districts. The Puerperal Pyrexia was both mild and unprolonged, and subsided without the necessity for either detailed investigation as to cause or specialised advice as to treatment.

Infectious Disease	Billinge Chapel End		Billinge Higher End		Winstanley	
	No. of Cases	Rate per 1,000 of population	No. of Cases	Rate per 1,000 of population	No. of Cases	Rate per 1,000 of population
Pneumonia	2	0·92	6	2·51	0	0·00
Scarlet Fever	1	0·46	4	1·67	2	3·53
Erysipelas	2	0·92	1	0·42	0	0·00
Diphtheria	0	0·00	1	0·42	0	0·00
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0·00	1	0·42	0	0·00
Total	5	2·30	13	5·44	2	3·53

The above table shows the distribution of the diseases in the three wards and the surprising predominance in Billinge Higher End, where improved housing and social conditions are to be found.

Two cases of Scarlet Fever only were treated at the Ashton-in-Makerfield Fever Hospital, as satisfactory precautions for isolation at home were exercised in the other infectious cases.

A stock of Diphtheria Antitoxin is kept by the Medical Officer of Health and is available to local practitioners for treatment in suspected as well as actual cases of the disease. Immunising toxoid is also provided on request and has been used on two occasions during the year.

The personal contact between the head teachers of the local schools and the Medical Officer of Health has again been satisfactorily maintained in regard to infectious troubles among the children. The daily information obtained in this manner was most useful in assessing the extent and severity of the Influenza epidemic in January and the eventual need for school closure.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) During the Year 1937.

Notifiable Diseases	Total Cases		TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.													HOSPITAL		
	at all	Under	Years													65 and over	Total Deaths from District.	Deaths in Hospital Belonging to District.
			Ages	1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65				
Scarlet Fever ...	7	0	0	0	1	0	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0		
Diphtheria	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
(including Membranous Croup)																		
Acute Primary Pneumonia	4	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0		
Acute Influenza Pneumonia	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0		
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Erysipelas.....	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0		
Smallpox ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Enteric Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Other Diseases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
generally notifiable—																		
Other Diseases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
notifiable locally—																		
Totals	20	0	0	1	1	1	4	3	1	5	0	4	0	2	2	0		

Cancer.—There has been a fall in the number of Cancer deaths during the year, 5 only being registered as due to the disease. The subjoined table gives the site, age and sex of the deaths occurring in each Ward during the year with those of previous years.

Billinge Chapel End.				Billinge Higher End.				Winstanley.			
M	Age	F	Age	M	Age	F	Age	M	Age	F	Age
1933											
Rectum	76 yrs.			Face	74 yrs.	Pleura	48 yrs.	Stomach	66 yrs.		
Rectum	59 yrs.			Liver	63 yrs.						
Colon	75 yrs.										
1934											
Pros- tate	37 yrs.	Stomach	57 yrs.	Stomach	54 yrs.	Sigmoid	50 yrs.				
		Breast	43 yrs.	Colon	65 yrs.	Breast	56 yrs.				
		Stomach	71 yrs.								
		Breast	32 yrs.								
1935											
Pancreas	61 yrs.	Colon	64 yrs.	Rectum	73 yrs.	Breast	65 yrs.	Colon	61 yrs.		
Spleen	42 yrs.	Stomach	72 yrs.	Face	74 yrs.						
Stomach	74 yrs.	Stomach	61 yrs.								
1936											
Stomach	61 yrs.			Colon	69 yrs.	Liver	56 yrs.	Testis	32 yrs.	Bowel	86 yrs.
						Rectum	55 yrs.				
						Ovary	80 yrs.				
						Breast	84 yrs.				
1937											
		Breast	56 yrs.	Colon	72 yrs.			Liver	84 yrs.		
		Stomach	53 yrs.	Stomach	58 yrs.						
Total				Total				Total			
8		9		9		9		4		1	
17				18				5			
Mean Rate 1.57 per 1,000 per year				1.51 per 1,000				1.77 per 1,000			

The death rate from Cancer for the district as a whole is 0.88 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, as compared with 1.65 the previous year and a mean of 1.55 for the period 1932—1936.

The Cancer deaths during the years 1933—1937 are classified and tabulated below according to the site of the affection and the age distribution.

		ORGAN AFFECTED.																									
Age Group	Total	Stomach		Colon		Rectum		Sigmoid		Liver		Prostate		Ovary		Breast		Face		Pleura		Spleen		Pancreas		Testis	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
25—35	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
35—45	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
45—55	4	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55—65	13	2	2	1	1	1	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
65—75	12	2	2	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Over 75	6	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	40	5	5	5	2	3	1	...	1	2	1	1	...	...	1	...	6	2	1	...	1	1	...	1	...	1	...

Two observations are once more to be made from the above statistics—that Cancer is a disease of later life, the incidence rising markedly after 55 years, and that its predominant sites are in the digestive tract.

Prevention of Blindness.—No action has been taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, for the prevention of blindness, or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

Tuberculosis.—No action was necessary under either the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925 (relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

The death rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System for 1937 is 0.71 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, as compared with 0.36 the previous year and a mean of 0.45 for the period 1932—1936.

Age Periods. Years.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1— 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
10—15	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
15—20	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
20—25	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—35	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
35—45	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
45—55	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
55—65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	3	1	1	1	1	3	0	0
	4		2		4		0	

The case and mortality distribution of Tuberculosis in the district during the period 1933—1937 is represented in the following tables:—

Case Distribution.—Pulmonary.

	Billinge	Chapel End	Billinge	Higher End	Winstanley
1933	2	...	0	...	0
1934	1	...	0	...	1
1935	2	...	1	...	2
1936	1	...	2	...	3
1937	2	...	2	...	0
	—		—		—
Total	8	...	5	...	6
Mean Rate per 1,000 population ...	0.74	...	0.42	...	2.12

Non-Pulmonary.

	Billinge	Chapel End	Billinge	Higher End	Winstanley
1933	4	...	1	...	0
1934	4	...	1	...	1
1935	1	...	1	...	2
1936	2	...	1	...	1
1937	0	...	1	...	1
	—		—		—
Total	11	...	5	...	5
Mean Rate per 1,000 population ...	1.01	...	0.42	...	1.77

Mortality Distribution.—Pulmonary.

	Billinge	Chapel End	Billinge	Higher End	Winstanley
1933	3	...	0	...	0
1934	1	...	0	...	0
1935	2	...	1	...	1
1936	1	...	1	...	0
1937	1	...	1	...	2
	—		—		—
Total ..	8	...	3	...	3
Mean Rate per 1,000 population ...	0.74	...	0.25	...	1.06

Non-Pulmonary.

	Billinge	Chapel End	Billinge	Higher End	Winstanley
1933	3	...	1	...	0
1934	1	...	0	...	0
1935	0	...	0	...	0
1936	0	...	1	...	0
1937	0	...	0	...	0
	—		—		—
Total	4	...	2	...	0
Mean Rate per 1,000 population ...	0.36	...	0.16	...	0.00

The subjoined Table gives the Numbers on the Register on December 31st, 1937.

Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.			Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary.	
M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.
10	2		5	7		15	9
						Total	24

The notification of Tuberculosis in the district is efficient, there being no non-notified Tuberculosis deaths.

SECTION G.

Factories and Workshops Act, 1901.—For the most part the law relating to Factories is administered by the Home Office. All the Workshops and Workplaces on the register have been inspected, and matters demanding attention have been dealt with. No complaints, as remediable under the Public Health Acts, have been received from H.M. Inspector of Factories, nor has any breach of the Factory Act been reported to him. The subjoined is a list of the Factories and Workshops on the register:—

2 Bakehouses.	1 Shoeing Smith.
1 Sawyer.	4 Coal Mines.
4 Cloggers and Boot Repairers.	1 Stone Quarry.
3 Builders and Joiners.	2 Brick and Tile Works.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J S. MATHER

May 27th, 1938.

Medical Officer.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1937.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit herewith my 15th Annual Report for your consideration.

Nuisances.—The number of nuisances under the Public Health Acts investigated during the year totalled 85, which were made up as follows: Structural defects 56, drainage defects 26, defective sanitary accommodation 3. All were abated after informal action.

Conversions.—28 insanitary privies have been converted to water carriage, to which your Council made a grant of £3 10s. 0d. in each case.

Slum Clearance.—Up to and including December 31st, 44 houses had been demolished, 24 back-to-back houses had been joined together to provide through ventilation, and 9 houses had been closed. These have been allowed to stand, as the owners have given an undertaking not to again permit the houses to be used for human habitation. 25 houses were closed and now await demolition. The number of re-housed in connection with the foregoing is 304.

Milk Regulations.—There are 46 Cowkeepers and Dairymen registered in your district, viz.: Producers and retailers 19, wholesale producers 6, producers' own use 10, retail purveyors 11; there is also 1 License in force for retailing Pasteurised Milk in your district, the pasteurising plant being situate in the County Borough of St. Helens.

4 samples of milk were taken on delivery at schools, and 4 samples were taken from local retailers. The former samples were taken at the request of the County Medical Officer and the latter on the instructions of your Medical Officer. All were submitted for bacteriological examination and report.

Meat Regulations.—Notices of intention to slaughter 70 pigs were received during the year: 60 carcasses were inspected and all found clear of disease. It is noticeable that more breeders are taking their animals alive to the abattoirs at St. Helens and Wigan, to be slaughtered there.

This is very gratifying, as, there being no slaughter-house in your district, the conditions under which most animals are slaughtered here is very unsatisfactory.

No other animal was slaughtered in your district during the year.

Petroleum Acts.—There are 14 licenses to store petroleum spirit in force in your district. All are in respect of underground tanks. There is also one license to store Carbide in force. No breach of the above regulations has been observed.

Bakehouses, etc.—Bakehouses where food is prepared or exposed for sale are periodically inspected and have been found clean and satisfactory.

Smoke.—Factory chimneys are kept under constant observation during the routine patrol of your district. Nothing calling for action has been noticed during the year.

Disinfections.—Disinfection of premises after infectious disease has been carried out on four occasions during the year. There are no underground or cellar dwellings, underground bake-houses, common lodging-houses, or offensive trades established within your district.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES J. PERKINS,

Sanitary Inspector.

